IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-39 (cancelled)

Claim 40: (currently amended) A telephone call and voice processing system comprising:

circuitry adaptable for coupling the system to an analog telephone extension, wherein the analog telephone extension includes a display operable for displaying alphanumeric information, and wherein the analog telephone extension includes a first caller ID modem;

circuitry for creating and storing a message associated with the analog telephone extension;

a second caller ID modem coupled to the circuitry adaptable for coupling the system to the analog telephone extension;

circuitry for retrieving the message from the storing circuitry and sending the message to the second caller ID modem;

circuitry for sending the message from the second caller ID modem to the first caller ID modem; and

circuitry for displaying the message on the display,

wherein the message does not include a phone number and an identity of a calling party.

Claim 41: (original) The system as recited in claim 40, wherein retrieval and sending of the message to the first caller ID modem is performed in response to receipt of an incoming call to the system intended for the analog telephone extension.

Claim 42: (original) The system as recited in claim 41, wherein the message is sent to the first caller ID modem while the analog telephone extension is being rung by the system.

Claim 43: (cancelled)

Claim 44: (original) The system as recited in claim 42, further comprising:

circuitry for coupling the system to a public switched telephone network; and

circuitry for receiving the incoming call from the public switched telephone network.

Claim 45: (original) The system as recited in claim 42, further comprising:

switching circuitry adaptable for receiving the incoming call, wherein the switching circuitry is adaptable for connecting the incoming call to the analog telephone extension; and

voice processing circuitry adaptable for automatically interacting with the incoming call, wherein the switching circuitry and the voice processing circuitry are controlled by a single processing means in the system.

Claim 46: (original) The system as recited in claim 45, wherein the voice processing circuitry further comprises a signal processing circuitry coupled to the single processing means.

Claim 47: (original) The system as recited in claim 46, wherein the switching circuitry further comprises a digital cross-point matrix coupled to the single processing means and to the signal processing circuitry.

Claim 48: (original) The system as recited in claim 45, wherein the single processing means is controlled by a single set of software operable for controlling both the switching circuitry and the voice processing circuitry.

Claim 49: (currently amended) In a telephone call and voice processing system, a method comprising the steps of:

creating and storing a message associated with an analog telephone extension coupled to the system, wherein the analog telephone extension includes a display operable for displaying alphanumeric information, and wherein the analog telephone extension includes a first caller ID modem;

[[retrieving]] sending the message to a second caller ID modem in said system; and

sending the message from the second caller ID modem to the first caller ID modem,

wherein the message does not include a phone number and an identity of a calling party.

Claim 50: (original) The method as recited in claim 49, further comprising the step of:

displaying the message on the display.

Claim 51: (original) The method as recited in claim 50, wherein the retrieving and sending steps are performed in response to receipt of an incoming call to the system intended for the analog telephone extension.

Claim 52: (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 51, wherein the sending step includes a step of ringing the analog telephone extension in response to the receipt of the incoming call.

Claim 53: (cancelled)

Claim 54: (original) The method as recited in claim 52, wherein the incoming call is received from a public switched telephone network coupled to the system.

Claim 55: (previously presented) A method comprising the steps of:

formulating a message that does not include one or both of a phone number and an identity of a calling party; and

transmitting between first and second caller ID modems the message.

Claim 56: (cancelled)

Claim 57: (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the steps of:

retrieving the message by the first caller ID modem;

in the first caller ID modem, converting the message into tones;

transmitting the tones to the second caller ID modem; and

in the second caller ID modem, converting the tones back into the message.

Claim 58: (original) The method as recited in claim 57, further comprising the steps of:

delivering the message from the second caller ID modem to a display circuit in a telephone unit; and

displaying the message.

Claim 59: (original) The method as recited in claim 58, wherein the transmitting step is performed in response to receipt of an incoming call intended for the telephone unit, and wherein the transmitting step is performed in conjunction with connecting the incoming call to the telephone unit.

Claim 60: (cancelled)

Claim 61: (currently amended) A telephone call and voice processing system comprising:

circuitry adaptable for coupling the system to an analog telephone extension, wherein the analog telephone extension includes a display operable for displaying alphanumeric information, and wherein the analog telephone extension includes a first caller ID modem;

circuitry for creating and storing a message associated with the analog telephone extension;

a second caller ID modem coupled to the circuitry adaptable for coupling the system to the analog telephone extension;

circuitry for retrieving the message from the storing circuitry and sending the message to the second caller ID modem;

circuitry for sending the message from the second caller ID modem to the first caller ID modem; and

circuitry for displaying the message on the display,

wherein the message does not include either a phone number or an identity of a calling party.

Claim 62: (currently amended) In a telephone call and voice processing system, a method comprising the steps of:

creating and storing a message associated with an analog telephone extension coupled to the system, wherein the analog telephone extension includes a display operable for displaying alphanumeric information, and wherein the analog telephone extension includes a first caller ID modem;

[[retrieving]] sending the message to a second caller ID modem in said system; and

sending the message from the second caller ID modem to the first caller ID modem,

wherein the message does not include either a phone number or an identity of a calling party.